

This is in response to the invitation to submit testimony for the legislative hearing on the proposal to raise the threshold for state taxes on Social Security payments to individuals.

Taxing Social Security shifts money from those on fixed incomes who can least afford it, to finance services for all state residents including: the rich, workers with the opportunity to earn increasing salaries for decades, and people who never worked enough to have social security deductions taken from their paychecks. Seniors have been required to pay into social security all their working lives, often over 40 years, yet if they worked in a well-paid job their payments are capped below what they put into Social Security. Further, recipients are taxed both by the federal state government.

While the Connecticut legislature offers retirees an income cutoff level where no state taxes are taken, this level is too low. Health care costs, which elderly naturally incur much more than young people, are growing while Medicare is shifting more and more to retirees. Fewer and fewer employers are providing health care coverage of any kind to retirees, especially the increasing proportion of seasonal and part-time workers in the workforce. Property taxes are escalating, rents are rising, and secure savings options such as certificate of deposits have provided virtually no interest income for seniors.

As a Connecticut resident and Social Security recipient who has lived here my entire adult life, I urge the legislature to increase the income ceiling on federally taxable Social Security income so that retirees are not burdened with an additional state tax.

Sincerely,

Audrey Thompson  
129 Newgate Road  
East Granby CT